HEALTHY CITY THRIVING FAMILIES

A Quarterly Update from the City of Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support

July - September 2004

Civic Engagement Success: Revising Old Funding Priorities

Nearly one million dollars worth of funding has been reassessed for a new direction, thanks to the Minneapolis Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), a group of appointed citizens and concerned stakeholders responsible for shaping the direction of public health in Minneapolis.

Charged by the Mayor and the Minneapolis City Council to reconfigure approximately \$1 million of the Public Service portion of City of Minneapolis Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the PHAC responded with a thoughtful and well-deliberated process. Starting in November 2003, the PHAC reviewed volumes of community level data, survey results and heard from expert speakers from health and human services fields. Many hours of debate and examination went into their new recommendations. They were presented to the Minneapolis City Council Health and Human Services Committee on June 21st by PHAC co-chairs Marnie Wells (Ward 10), and Vanessa Freeman (Ward 3). The Health and Human Services Committee will forward these on to the full City Council. If approved by the Mayor and City Council, these recommendations will go into effect for the CDBG funding cycle starting July 2005.

Guiding Principles & Priorities

The following guiding principles for this portion of the CDBG funds were created by the PHAC:

 Prevention: consideration of a broad spectrum of proactive initiatives to enhance community well-being, including those that address underlying social conditions.

- 2) Eliminating Health Disparities: address inequities in services, behaviors, access to resources, or other conditions that affect the well-being of communities or individuals.
- 3) Resident-Community Engagement: must reflect consultation with the communities to be served in both identifying the needs to be addressed and the proposed strategies.

The PHAC also recommends two priority areas be considered for the distribution of these funds:

- 1) School Readiness and Early Childhood.
- 2) Community Health Access: access to health care providers, prevention services, and supportive services addressing social conditions that are part of creating a healthy community.

Distribution of Funds

To support these essential priority areas of the community safety net, the PHAC recommends that \$150,000 be set aside for each of community safety net priorities:

- · Services to the uninsured
- · Subsidies for child care

The PHAC recommended that those funds be administered by the Neighborhood Health Care Network and the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association. Both organizations presently manage these services on behalf of the City of Minneapolis.

The balance (\$688,000) will be made available to eligible community providers through a competitive process in grants of up to \$100,000. The PHAC will also encourage prospective applicants to

consider administering some of these funds as mini-grants to community groups as a strategy to promote resident participation.

Next Steps

Public meetings to explain this new process and to help refine the priorities will be scheduled later this summer. For more information, call Ken Dahl at 612/673-3798.

Ms. Wells and Ms. Freeman expressed gratitude to the PHAC subcommittee members who shaped the proposal: Matt Schwei (Ward 1), Susan Gust (Ward 6), Kay Jones (MN Nurses Association), Kathryn Dean (Ward 7), Brigid Riley (Hennepin County Human Services), and Gerry Sell (Ward 8). The full recommendations are posted at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2004-meetings/20040702/Docs03_PHAC-Recommendations-on-CDBG-funds.pdf.

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New Publication

MDHFS announces its latest Research Brief **Health of lesbian and bisexual women in Minneapolis,** using population-based data from the SHAPE 2002 survey. Highlights include:

- Lesbian and bisexual women have stronger ties to their communities and to each other than heterosexual females.
- The percentage of lesbian or bisexual women diagnosed with depression is over two times higher than heterosexual women.
- Lesbians and bisexual women were more likely than heterosexual women to use complementary forms of health care, such as meditation and herbal medicines.

The Research Brief is posted at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/docs/lbbrief.pdf. The earlier-published **Health and well-being of gay and bisexual men in Minneapolis** is also posted on the MDHFS website, and both documents can be requested in printed form by calling 612/673-2301.

The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) works to ensure that all



families are healthy and fully share in the social and economic opportunities of the City of Minneapolis. The MDHFS reaches residents by working in partnership with community organizations, other units of government, schools, and health and human service agencies.

Ken Dahl, Interim Director

Council Member
Natalie Johnson Lee, Chair
Health & Human Services Committee

612/673-2301 www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs

If you need this document in an alternative format, please call 612/673-2301 or TTY 612/673-2157 (General City Information). Please allow a reasonable amount of time for special needs accommodation.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Outreach

According to a study conducted by Hennepin County's Epidemiology and Environmental Health division, approximately 17 percent of Minneapolis children have blood lead levels greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter. This signals a level of concern where assessment of the child's exposure to lead in their environment is warranted, and removing lead in the child's environment may be necessary.

MDHFS received \$370.824 in federal funding from the Housing and Urban Development Agency (HUD) in October 2003 to reach out to affected communities to prevent childhood lead poisoning. The Sustainable Resources Center (SRC) was chosen as the main community partner for this project. SRC will contact 2,500 families with lead prevention education and blood testing at community sites and events. 400 low-income housing units are expected to be enrolled into lead hazard treatment programs as a result of these outreach and education efforts. The project runs through September 2005.

The project targets Minneapolis
Empowerment Zone housing units, but
does not exclude other areas of
Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin
County. Education and outreach efforts
are further focused on: low-income
families of color with pregnant women
or children under the age of six, people
with limited English skills (especially
Latino, Hmong, and Somali speakers),
and housing maintenance, rehabilitation,
and home repair workers, especially
landlords and contractors.

Other partner agencies for this project include Hennepin County Human Services; Hennepin County Housing, Community Works and Transit; Lead Hazard Reduction Network; Minnesota Visiting Nurses Agency; MedTox; Metropolitan Health Plan; Minnesota Department of Health; the faith-based organization MATCH (Mothers Advocating Their Children's Health); Neighborhood Health Care Network; and UCare Minnesota. For more information, contact Megan Ellingson at 612/673-3817.



A child gets tested for lead at an event coordinated by the Sustainable Resources Center (SRC).

Twin Cities Healthy Start

State Health Commissioner Dianne Mandernach was invited to discuss issues around funding for family planning and Indian health at the June 28th Executive Committee meeting. Marilyn Jones (L), co-chair of the Executive Committee, and Ludella Cassey (R), co-chair of the African American Advisory Committee joined Commissioner Mandernach (center) for the discussion. The goal of Healthy Start is to decrease infant mortality in the African American and American Indian communities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. For more information, call 612/673-3448.



Urban Health Agenda Gets a Jump Start

Over 50 people gathered for an entire day to begin to develop an urban health policy agenda for the Twin Cites metro area. The June 22nd event was co-sponsored by MDHFS, Hennepin County Human Services, St. Paul - Ramsey County Department of Public Health, and the Minnesota Department of Health's Office of Minority and Multicultural Health. Community members and organizations, including

those who have received state Eliminating Health Disparities grants, were asked to identify those policy issues that should be addressed collectively to help eliminate health disparities in the urban area of the Twin Cities.

The meeting is one of the first tangible products of an effort to work jointly between Minneapolis, Hennepin

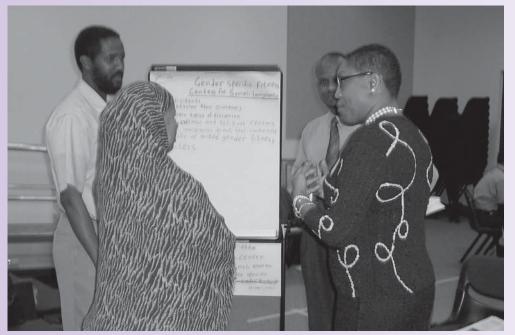
County and St. Paul - Ramsey County Department of Public Health to address urban health issues. Issues discussed included:

- Increasing workforce diversity, including leadership and management positions.
- Improving data collection.
- Addressing issues around sexuality and adolescence.
- Capitalizing on cultural strengths and health practices.
- Promoting funding of communitybased organizations.
- Improving access to health care and interpreters.
- Addressing health holistically.

The planning group will meet soon to map out next steps. Suggested next steps include:

- Meeting with health plans and health providers.
- Planning of a forum related to workforce issues.
- Development of legislative priorities.

Notes from the meeting are available by contacting Patty Bowler at 612/673-3009.



Participants brainstorm strategies for an urban health policy agenda.

Healthy City Updates

Teen Parent Connection Award

The National Association of Counties has awarded the Teen Parent Connection an Achievement Award. The Teen Parent Connection is a joint program between MDHFS, Hennepin County Human Services, and Minneapolis Public Schools to keep teen parents in school, connect them with supportive resources, and prevent second pregnancies. For more information, contact Gretchen Musicant at 612/673-3955.

National Association of City and County Health Officers conference

The work of MDHFS will be well represented at the national NACCHO conference to be held in St. Paul on July 15-17. Three projects will be showcased: the New Families Center will be represented on a panel of *Innovative Local Programs Addressing Health Disparities, Shoulder to Shoulder: Raising Teens Together* will be part of a round table discussion, and Emergency Preparedness will be featured in a breakout presentation *Planning for the Needs of Special Populations in a Crisis.*

August Sports Physicals

The School-Based Clinics will be offering sports physicals for students of Edison, Henry, Roosevelt, South and Washburn High Schools during the last 2 weeks of August. For appointments or more information, contact Bev Tramontin at 612/673-3928 or Annie Warhol at 612/673-3217.

Skyway Senior Center

The Skyway Senior Center held a successful jewelry sale fundraiser this spring, raising \$2800 from the sale of donated jewelry. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matched an additional \$1600 for a total of \$4400 raised from this event. Another in-kind donation from Do-Good.biz valued at \$1200 will provide the mailing preparation for the Center's "Chatter" newsletter. See "Staff on the Move" for more Skyway Senior Center news.

Housing Advocates Success

The Housing Services Advocates received a "thank you call" from a very excited and happy tenant. This mother of two small children had her \$1000 deposit returned after following through on the recommendation of her advocate to write to her former landlord. This young mother was in critical need of this money, and persevered through many barriers to see her reward at the end of this 9 week process. For rental and tenant/landlord concerns, call Housing Services at 612/673-3003.



Pictured above are Cha Lee (l), Executive Director of Southeast Asian Community Council, and Council Member Natalie Johnson Lee (r), speaking at a Hmong Resource Fair held May 22^{nd} at North High School. MDHFS was a partner with many other agencies in organizing the fair, which was held in anticipation of increased Hmong immigration from Thailand this summer.

Staff on the Move

Stacy Schmidt has started as a Program Aide for the Senior Ombudsman office. Stacy has a degree in Human Services, and 3 years experience working for non-profit agencies. She will be staffing the Minneapolis Committee on Disabilities in addition to providing some support for the Skyway Senior Center. Stacy can be reached at 612/673-3757.

Melinda Ludwiczak, Skyway Senior Center Coordinator, has left to pursue another career path at the Minneapolis Public Library. Melinda was instrumental in launching the Skyway Senior Center, and has been its coordinator since November 2001. Thanks for your great work, Melinda.

Linda Snyder has been hired as the Interim Skyway Senior Center coordinator. Linda comes with lots of experience in coordinating lifelong learning and wellness programs for older adults, and can be reached at 612/370-3869.

Kristin Keller, Project Coordinator, joined MDHFS in June. Kristin will manage Minneapolis Multicultural Services and oversee the development of the Citywide Limited English Plan (LEP). Kristin's past work experience includes serving as Adult Education Coordinator for three school districts and as Literacy Coordinator for the Minneapolis Public Library. Kristin's phone number is 612/673-3737.

Sarah Dixon has joined MDHFS as an intern from the University of California – Santa Cruz, majoring in Community Studies with a focus on social change and community activism. She will be working on health care access issues at the New Families Center, children's exposure to lead, and policy issues related to health disparities. Sarah is at 612/673-2885.

Researcher elected MPHA leader

David C. Johnson, an epidemiologist with the MDHFS Research Team, has been voted as co-president elect of the Minnesota Public Health Association (MPHA.) His term will extend 3 years, through 2007. MPHA is the state-wide affiliate of the American Public Health Association, and the professional association of approximately 400 public health professionals in Minnesota.